

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

In making the following claim amendments, it is presumed that the new patent claims appended to the international preliminary examination report have been entered.

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (New) A supporting structure for a motor vehicle, in particular an automobile, comprising:

a longitudinal beam arrangement, and

a bumper arrangement attached to at least one longitudinal end of the longitudinal beam arrangement, the bumper arrangement having a crossbeam which, in an axial direction, rests against the longitudinal beam arrangement by way of two longitudinal beam parts,

wherein the longitudinal beam parts are attached to a central section of the crossbeam which is located at a distance from ends of the crossbeam,

wherein the longitudinal beam parts, at their ends remote from the crossbeam, are attached by way of a bearing bracket to one another and to the longitudinal beam arrangement,

wherein the bearing bracket is a crash element, which exercises an energy-absorbing effect in the event of a crash,

wherein the bumper arrangement has a bending beam attached to the ends of the crossbeam, and

wherein the bending beam, at least in the central section, rests on the crossbeam by way of at least one energy-absorbing foam body.

7. (New) The supporting structure as claimed in claim 6, wherein the longitudinal beam parts run parallel to a longitudinal direction of the vehicle and at a distance from one another in a horizontal direction.

8. (New) The supporting structure as claimed in claim 6, wherein the longitudinal beam arrangement is arranged essentially in the center of the vehicle.

9. (New) The supporting structure as claimed in claim 6, wherein the bending beam is supported at its ends on the crossbeam such that it can rotate about vertical axes.

10. (New) The supporting structure as claimed in claim 6, wherein the bending beam is attached exclusively at its ends to the crossbeam.

11. (New) The supporting structure as claimed in claim 7, wherein the longitudinal beam arrangement is arranged essentially in the center of the vehicle.

12. (New) The supporting structure as claimed in claim 7, wherein the bending beam is supported at its ends on the crossbeam such that it can rotate about vertical axes.

13. (New) The supporting structure as claimed in claim 7, wherein the bending beam is attached exclusively at its ends to the crossbeam.

14. (New) The supporting structure as claimed in claim 8, wherein the bending beam is supported at its ends on the crossbeam such that it can rotate about vertical axes.

15. (New) The supporting structure as claimed in claim 8, wherein the bending beam is attached exclusively at its ends to the crossbeam.

16. (New) The supporting structure as claimed in claim 9, wherein the bending beam is attached exclusively at its ends to the crossbeam.

17. (New) The supporting structure as claimed in claim 11, wherein the bending beam is supported at its ends on the crossbeam such that it can rotate about vertical axes.

18. (New) The supporting structure as claimed in claim 11, wherein the bending beam is attached exclusively at its ends to the crossbeam.

19. (New) The supporting structure as claimed in claim 14, wherein the bending beam is attached exclusively at its ends to the crossbeam.

20. (New) The supporting structure as claimed in claim 17, wherein the bending beam is attached exclusively at its ends to the crossbeam.